

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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PASS AID; ALSO FOR USGS AND NASA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, TATT, XR, AR
SUBJECT: REGIONAL CENTER FOR REMOTE SENSING

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A FREE TRANSLATION OF OPERATIVE PORTION OF
A LETTER TO THE CHARGE FROM COMODORO JUAN JOSE TASSO, ACTING
PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH COMMISSION
(CNIE):

"THE NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH COMMISSION IS ENGAGED IN THE PRE-
PARATION OF A CALL FOR BIDS FOR THE PROVISION, INSTALLATION,
AND START-UP OF A RECEIVING STATION FOR IMAGES TRANSMITTED BY
LANDSAT SATELLITES. THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF A LONG PROCESS
OF STUDIES AND CONSULTATIONS WITH NASA WHICH HAS GIVEN US ITS
MAXIMUM COLLABORATION.

"AS A CONSEQUENCE, ARGENTINA WILL BE ONE OF THE NATIONS OF THE
WORLD WHICH IS ACTIVELY INCORPORATED IN THE LANDSAT PLANS FOR
THE STUDY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, THROUGH THE USE OF REMOTE
SENSORS.

"CONINCIDENTALLY WITH THE INITIATION OF THE STATION PROJECT,
THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE HAD BEEN THE HOST FOR A TEAM OF
TECHNICIANS FROM YOUR COUNTRY WHO CONDUCTED A DEMONSTRATION
AT THE END OF 1976, OF THE OPERATION OF THE ATS-6 SATELLITE.

"MR. JOHN WILHELM OF AID WAS IN CHARGE OF THE GROUP, AND
THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE EXPRESSED OPPORTUNELY ITS APPROVAL
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FOR THE INTERESTING DEMONSTRATION IN WHICH THE BENEFITS
WHICH THE LANDSAT PLAN WILL BRING WERE EMPHASIZED.

"IT IS THUS THAT THE (CNIE) HAS BENEFITED FROM THE EXPERIENCE
GAINED, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THAT PRESENTATION AND FROM THE
DISCUSSION ABOUT RELATED SUBJECTS, BOTH WITH MR. WILHELM AND
WITH MEMBERS OF HIS TEAM.

"THERE AROSE IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE

PLANS OF AID RELATED TO THE CREATION, IN SOME SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES, OF A REGIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTER AND ITS APPLICATION TO THE STUDY OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

"TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH A PROJECT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF AID TO LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT. AND IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT WE REQUEST THAT THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC BE DESIGNATED AS THE COUNTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE OF THESE CENTERS.

"IN ADDITION TO THE GREAT INTEREST WHICH OUR COUNTRY HAS IN ASSUMING THIS RESPONSIBILITY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS WHICH JUSTIFY THIS PRESENTATION AND WHICH SUPPORT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY AID TO OUR REQUEST. SOME OF THESE REASONS ARE:

A) ARGENTINA THROUGH (CNIE) IS IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING A 'LANDSAT' STATION WHICH WILL INCORPORATE THE CAPACITY FOR GROWTH NECESSARY FOR THE PROCESSING OF 'LANDSAT-D' WHICH WILL PLACE IT AMONG THE MOST ADVANCED RECEIVING STATION OF THE WORLD.

B) ARGENTINA HAS NOW CARRIED OUT WITH EVERY SUCCESS A LATIN AMERICAN COURSE ON REMOTE SENSING WITH THE COLLABORATION OF NASA AND EROS DATA CENTER (USGS) PROFESSIONALS; PRESENTLY A SIMILAR COURSE IS BEING CONDUCTED AND FUTURE COURSES ARE NOW BEING PLANNED WITH ARGENTINE PROFESSIONALS AS TEACHERS. THESE (POST GRADUATE) COURSES HAVE CREATED AND WILL CONTINUE CREATING SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONALS IN THESE TECHNIQUES. THE FRANK OPINION OF THESE PROFESSORS ABOUT THE CAPABILITY ACQUIRED

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AND THE LEVEL OF THE STUDENTS HAS BEEN EXTREMELY FAVORABLE.

C) THE GENERAL PROFESSIONAL LEVEL IN ARGENTINA IS PROBABLY THE HIGHEST IN LATIN AMERICA, AND ITS CENTERS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION ARE THE MOST NUMEROUS.

D) THE SPANISH LANGUAGE, SPOKEN IN OUR COUNTRY, ASSURES THE GREATEST POSSIBILITY FOR ASSIMILATION OF KNOWLEDGE BY PROFESSIONALS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, PERMITTING IMMEDIATE COMMUNICATION AND THE EASY EXCHANGE OF SPOKEN AND WRITTEN INFORMATION. THIS POINT IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL AND THE ONE WHICH MOST STRONGLY RECOMMENDS, ALONG WITH THE PREVIOUS ONES, THE INSTALLATION OF THE REGIONAL CENTER.

E) THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES IS THE LARGEST CITY OF LATIN AMERICA, AND IT IS WITHOUT DOUBT THE LARGEST SPANISH-SPEAKING CITY. IT IS ALSO THE CITY WHOSE LIVING CONDITIONS ARE SUPERIOR TO THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA AND WHOSE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AND PRESENCE OF ASSISTANCE OF ALL KINDS IS UNSURPASSED BY ANY OTHER.

F) THE PERSONNEL AND THE EQUIPMENT (INSTRUMENTAL) PRESENTLY EXISTING IN CNIE ARE OF HIGH QUALITY; THEY INCLUDE GEOLOGISTS, SPECIALISTS IN SOILS, ELECTRONIC TECHNIQUES, IN HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE, PHOTOGRAPHIC LABORATORIES, PHOTOGRAPHIC AIRCRAFT, MULTISPECTRAL CAMERAS, ETC. (CNIE) IS IN THE PROCESS OF PURCHASING AIRCRAFT WITH SOPHISTICATED SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

(MULTISPECTRAL SCANNERS, ETC.).

G) ARGENTINA, FOR ITS SIZE, DISTINCTIVE CLIMATES, DISTINCTIVE TYPES OF SOILS, DISTINCTIVE GEOGRAPHY, WHICH INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL ZONES, FORESTRY ZONES, PLAINS, ZONES OF HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT IN MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS, ERODED ZONES, UNDEVELOPED ZONES SUCH AS PATAGONIA, COLD REGIONS, ETC. CONSTITUTES AN IDEAL AREA FOR THE APPLICATION OF REMOTE SENSING TECHNIQUES; THEIR STUDY, ASIDE FROM REPRESENTING AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, CAN BY THEIR VARIETY BE EXTRAPOLATED TO OTHER COUNTRIES WITH SIMILAR CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY."

2. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTEL.

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Message Attributes

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